

REMARKS

Please cancel Claim 1-3, 5-6, 8 and 30 without prejudice. Claims 21-29 and 31-36 are pending. Claim 29 is amended herein. No new matter is added as a result of the claim amendments.

The Examiner has indicated that Claims 21-28 are allowed and that Claim 30 is allowable. The Applicant thanks the Examiner for allowing Claims 21-28 and 30.

103(a) Rejections

The instant Office Action states that Claims 29 and 31-36 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ho (U.S. Patent No. 6,407,757) in view of Kolb et al. ("Kolb;" U.S. Patent No. 6,028,923).

Claim 29 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of Claim 30, which is indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of its base claim (Claim 29) and any intervening claims (there are none). Claim 29 is therefore in condition for allowance and so a discussion of the rejection of Claim 29 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) is rendered moot at this time. Because Claims 31-36 are dependent on an allowable base claim and recite additional limitations, a discussion of the rejection of Claims 31-36 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) is also rendered moot at this time.

Conclusions

In light of the above remarks, Applicant respectfully requests allowance of the instant application.

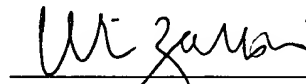
Applicant respectfully notes that no contested claims remain in the instant application.

The Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's undersigned representative if the Examiner believes such action would expedite resolution of the present Application.

Respectfully submitted,

WAGNER, MURABITO & HAO LLP

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William A. Zarbis
Reg. No. 46,120

Two North Market Street
Third Floor
San Jose, California 95113
(408) 938-9060